A

Copie of a Letter

Sent from a Gentleman in his MAJESTIES Army, to an especiall friend in London:

Containing a true Relation of his MAJESTIES Army since their removall from Oxford, to the 16. of this present *Novemb.* 1642.

Published for the benefit of all those who desire to be truely informed.

Printed *Anno Dom.* 1642.

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SIR,

I Shall tell you nothing of the Kings paſſage from Oxford to Abbington, Henly, Redding and Maydenhead who expiated by furniſhing the Army with neceſſaries, beſides Armes, which the fled Garriſons left behinde them when his Majeſtie came to Egham and Stanes, he ſummon'd Windſor-Caſtle (kept againſt him by 1200 men under the command of captain Venne Citizene) but was denied entrance; His Majeſtie thought it not worth the ſtay, or the loſſe of any man. From thence marcht to Colebrook where the Earles of Northumberland and Pembrook (for the houſe of Peers) the Lord Wenman, Mr Pierpoynt, Sir John Epſley (for the houſe of Commons) brought a Petition from the Parliament after long diſpute preſented by them to his Majeſtie; the ſubſtance was to beſeech his Majeſtie to concurre with His loving ſubjects to prevent the further effuſion of bloud, and to that end to appoint a place for Commiſsioners on both ſides to meet & treat of Peace. To this the King anſwered, he knew no beter place then Windſor-caſtle. After this Committee had been exceedingly well received both by the King and the reſt of the Court, they were diſmiſſed and ſet forwards towards London. On Saturday about eight of the clock in the morn-

ing, the King gave ſudden charge for the Army to march toward Brandford, and on Hountſlow heath ſet the Army in battalia, while the Lord Generall Ruthen led ſome of the Regiments of foot towards the town, where the Regiments of my Lord Brooks, and Mr Hollys and ſome other ſelect companies, in all 2000 kept the works: Theſe gave fire aſſoon as the Kings forces were upon them, and were boldly anſwered by the Regiment of Mr Bellowes, ſome of whoſe men were ſlain out of the windows; but twenty of his men got into the houſe, ſlew ten in the chambers, and at their deſcent took 80 priſonners in a yard, ready to iſſue out. When they had bound theſe & put a guard upon them, they advanced ſo ſtoutly that they poſſeſſed themſelves of the firſt work, which was a battery of two Canons, and a Breſt-work in the middle of New-Braintford.

By this time the Regiment of Sir William Pennyman came up to the aſſiſtance of M. Bellowes, and here the diſpute grew very hot from another work like the former betwixt the two Brainfords (where the watermen uſed to ply,) at laſt it was likewiſe wonne: the laſt work was about 20 ſcore on this ſide the old Brainford. Colonell Hapden was not farre diſtant from it with a reſerve, but came not into their relief, & here many fell; at leaſt 50 drowned, and the reſt ran away, leaving that work as the two former. By this time it grew ſo exceeding dark that it was not wiſdome, though I think ſafe, to have

followed

followed the execution any further. The King lay at Hounslow, the body of the army and all the baggage at Brainford. Upon strict and just examination the benefit of this action was this, 6 pieces of Canon, 7 Colours, 443 prisoners, among whom are Doctour Clayton minister of Putney, and Preacher to a Regiment. Lilburn, once a Printer stigmatized with M. Prin, and now Captain, and one Ashfield Captain, Lieutenant to the Lord Brook, besides many other inferiour officers.

Their dead, I mean by the sword, are not above 200. Among them is Quarles, Lieutenant Colonell to M. Hollis (whose Regiment is by this service utterly defeated.) Of the Kings side there were slain near 30, none of note, but M. Creswell, a Captain of foot, and a Lieutenant: M. La-Roch a great Engineer is wounded in the belly, but without danger. The next day, being Sunday, the King commanded service and sermon before the break of day, and about 8 of the clock, went to Brainford, where he had scarce been half an houre, but a most violent (because unexpected) Alarm was given, which was immediately discovered by the garrison in Kingston to be 1200 men, Marriners that came in 12 great Lighters with their Cannon, and designed to land at Sion-house to make that good, but were prevented by the excellent industry of a Gentleman, no officer, who rallyed 150 men and made good the House and garden just as they drew to shore: from whom they were so

galled that they lanched out again and moved down the river, giving so much fire both with great and small shot, which was answered again from the shore, that for the time, the greatest battell made not more noise.

Diverse shot came through the House and fell nigh the Kings person at Old-Brainford. Two Drakes were prepared ready to entertain them and not in vain, for at the first shot a Barge was broken at one side; at the second six men were slain; the third fell into the Boat, where half their Ammunition lay, being 22 barrels of Powder, which immediately took fire and made the morning in one part as dark as the preceding night: and yet by the rest, that appeared of day, legs and arms were plentifully seen fly in the ayre. Amazed with this they ranne their Boats upon the shore of the other side and quitted them. The Kings souldiers soon possessed themselves of the spoyl, which was 11 piece of Canon, 22 barrels of Powder, much meal, bread, cheese, &c. For want of carriage, 12 barrels of Powder, by order were broken and thrown into the water, and eight Canon nailed and sunk. In this action the King lost not one man and but one hurt on the thumbe. About one of the clock the Earle of Essex (with the help of many City Regiments) stood in battalia near the Camp. But among so many trees, ditches and hedges, that the Kings Horse could never come to Chardge. Wherefore two Troops stood within lesse then twice Musket-shot of them;

received

received 30 Canon-shot with the losse but of 5 horses and never a man. In the mean time, the Army retreated part with the King to Hampton Court, and the other to Kingstone. By this, if the Parliament forces had a minde to fight, Hounslow-heath was an open Campagnea; besides Kinston was better Quarter, by the benefit of the River, and the other Countreys adjacent.

The Parliament was highly offended with what the King had done upon Saturday. Imprisoned a messenger the King sent upon Sunday with a gratious message; but released him the next day. They say the King fights while he treats of Peace. To this it is answered that the Parliament forces advanced the same day towards the King, before he marched. That they shot first. That the same day speeches were made in Guildhall, that for all the Treaty, they did not intend Peace. Lastly, that the King did not give, nor they ask a cessation of arms.

The King on Monday marched himself to Oatlands, the Army still lying at Kingston.

The Lord Digby with his Regiment of horse and 2 Troops of Dragoneers layeth at Egham to hinder the incursions of Windsor-Castle, from whence on the same Saturday (which is another reason) they issued and took two of the Kings waggons of provision, slaying the carters. You may confidently believe this narration; for you receive it not from my ear, but from my eye.

F. 150042